



## **CALGARY**

# **Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan**

## **January 25, 2016**

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

### **Objectives:**

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

### **Contents:**

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. This lesson plan was prepared by Kathleen Hall via Communication4Integration Inc.

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## NEWSCAST 1: CALGARY GRADE 3 CLASS CATCHES 460 DISTRACTED DRIVERS IN THE ACT



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/tj-grade-3-class-distracted-driving-project-1.3411569>

### WARM UP

What would you do if you witnessed dangerous driving due to the driver using their phone while driving? Discuss with a colleague or friend.

### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Review the context clues from the sentences to try to understand the meanings of the new vocabulary below before listening to the newscast.

VOCABULARY	SYNONYMS IN CONTEXT
thanks to	<u>Due to</u> his work, many children were saved.
enlisted	Many young people were <u>recruited</u> to fight in the war with the promise of good pay.
keep an eye out	The children were taught to <u>watch for</u> and <u>pay attention to</u> cars near the school yard.
instance	Every <u>time it happened</u> the baby woke up.
day-to-day	Their <u>everyday routine</u> was to leave at 8:00 in the morning.
caught the attention of	The loud nose was <u>noticed by</u> all the neighbours who came running out of their houses.
awesome	We really enjoyed the <u>amazing</u> fire-works display last night.
distracted driving	He was <u>drinking coffee and talking on his phone</u> while driving instead of watching the road
advantage	The new park is a real <u>plus</u> . The family can spend time together there.
issue	The very important <u>problem</u> was discussed for several hours.
data	They asked for <u>information</u> from everyone before making a decision.
aside from	<u>As well as</u> learning English, she is studying to be a nurse.

## LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the first newscast for overall comprehension.

## LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Now listen to the newscast again, and fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

How often do students in a typical Grade 3 class witness distracted \_\_\_\_\_ in a month? The answer is 460. We know thanks to eight-year-old TJ Lorensen, who \_\_\_\_\_ his classmates at his school to \_\_\_\_\_ an eye \_\_\_\_\_ for every \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ driving they see in their \_\_\_\_\_-to-day lives, record the \_\_\_\_\_, and bring it to school.

The project \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of police – in a good way. Constable Steve Ross with Calgary's Police Service said, "It's really \_\_\_\_\_ when somebody like TJ gets involved in educating kids on safety, and distracted \_\_\_\_\_ is a pretty big \_\_\_\_\_ right now in the city."

\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ gathering, Ross sees another \_\_\_\_\_ to TJ's class project. Not surprisingly, many of the \_\_\_\_\_ drivers students catch are their own parents. Ross said, "I think it is a great way for kids to help educate their parents. When you hear something through a child, it's a reminder that there is a reason for the rules."  
(See answer key)

## VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Complete the sentences below with the following words from the Newscast:

issue	keep an eye out	aside from	awesome
data	instance	caught the attention of	distracted driving
advantage	thanks to	enlisted	day-to-day

1. \_\_\_\_\_ her quick thinking, many children were saved.
  2. We were \_\_\_\_\_ to volunteer at the seniors centre.
  3. You have to \_\_\_\_\_ for cars even at the cross walk.
  4. Every \_\_\_\_\_ was reported to the police.
  5. His \_\_\_\_\_ routine was to leave work at 6:00 in the evening.
  6. Her new suit \_\_\_\_\_ all of her coworkers.
  7. We really enjoyed the \_\_\_\_\_ concert we went to on the weekend.
  8. \_\_\_\_\_ instead of watching the road is dangerous.
  9. The new park is a real \_\_\_\_\_. The family can now spend time together.
  10. The government discussed the important \_\_\_\_\_ for several hours.
  11. They collected \_\_\_\_\_ from many people to help them make a decision.
  12. \_\_\_\_\_ the language, you must understand the culture of a new country.
- (See answer key)

## NEWSCAST 2: ALBERTA'S EI NUMBERS CONTINUE TO CLIMB



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/employment-insurance-stats-higher-1.3413404>

### WARM UP

Are you aware of any government benefits that help you if you lose your job? If so, explain them to a friend or classmate.

### LANGAUGE FOCUS

#### ACTIVITY 1

Look at the words below. Native English-speakers know what these words mean when they are used together. Words that are often used together are called collocations. Put a checkmark (✓) next to the collocations you can understand just by putting the meaning of each word together.

Collocation	Meaning of both words	✓
Statistics Canada	data	
	the country where we live	
employment insurance	work	
	coverage against a problem	
previous month	earlier	
	1/12 of the year	
more than double	extra	
	twice as much	
collecting EI	gathering/getting	
	employment insurance	
per sector	each	
	area	

number of beneficiaries	amount of	
	payees or recipients	
similar magnitude	alike	
	importance	
recorded for	documented or written down	
	aimed at	
last job	previous	
	work	

broke down	Is a phrasal verb that describes something that has stopped working or a person that is unable to control one's feelings. In the newscast, it means to classify, categorize, sort, or type.
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### LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the second newscast. Pay careful attention to the collocations listed above.

### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Now try to fill in the blanks with the collocations below without listening to the newscast again.

Statistics Canada      more than double      per sector      recorded for  
 Previous month      similar magnitude      collecting EI      employment insurance  
 number of beneficiaries      broke down      last job

\_\_\_\_\_ says more than 61,000 people were on \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ in November – an increase of 2.7 per cent over the \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_. It's more \_\_\_\_\_ the number of people in the  
 province \_\_\_\_\_ compared to November 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_ also \_\_\_\_\_ the increases in Alberta  
 \_\_\_\_\_. The report stated, "On a year-over-year basis, the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ whose \_\_\_\_\_ was in natural or applied  
 science almost tripled. Increases of \_\_\_\_\_ were also  
 \_\_\_\_\_ those whose \_\_\_\_\_ was in processing,  
 manufacturing and utilities.

### LISTENING ACTIVITY 3

Listen to the second newscast. Verify if the collocations you inserted in the blanks above are correct.

(See answer key)

#### LISTENING ACTIVITY 4

Listen for the following numbers and put an arrow from the number to how the number is said in the newscast.

Number	→ How it is said in the newscast
2014	Two thousand and fourteen Twenty fourteen Two thousand fourteen
62,000	Sixty two hundred Sixty and two thousand Sixty two thousand
2.7	Twenty seven Two point seven Two decimal seven

(See answer key)

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Consider how unemployment is affecting your community. Discuss the effects unemployment has on people and communities with a classmate or friend.

If you have not noticed the impact of unemployment in your community consider the reasons for this and discuss them with a classmate or friend.



### NEWSCAST 3: NASA SHOWS OFF ITS 1ST ZINNIA TO BLOOM ON THE SPACE STATION



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/trending/nasa-space-flowers-1.3410777>

#### WARM UP

Look at the picture above. The picture is of a Zinnia. Can you think of what a Zinnia might have to do with space exploration?

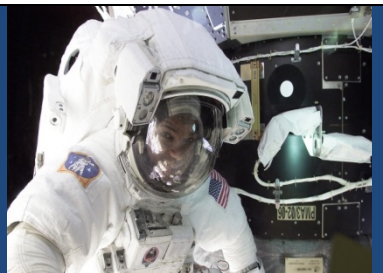
#### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the pictures below and write the correct number under the picture

1. Astronauts

2. Space Station

3. NASA



(See answer key)

#### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Use the space provided below to describe what you think the terms mean:

Term	Meaning
Astronauts	
Space Station	
NASA	

### LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to Newscast 3 for overall comprehension.

### LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to Newscast 3 again. Take notes so that you can summarize what you've heard. Use the table below to assist you.

What is said about:	
Zinnias	
Scientists	
The Plants	
Scott Kelly	
First Flower	

(See answer key for suggested responses)

### SPEAKING ACTIVITY 1

Summarize what you've heard. If you are in a class, work with a partner. Take turns to summarize the newscast. If you are doing this lesson independently, record yourself summarizing the story and play it back.

Photo Credits:

Space Station: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/space-station-1.3220918>

NASA: <http://guialomejordelmundo.com/en/education-and-training/professional-practice/1328/nasa-a-spatial-experience-.html>

Astronaut: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/nasa-hiring-astronauts-1.3314667>



## LANGUAGE FOCUS: INTRODUCTION TO COLLOCATIONS

According to the Oxford Dictionary Collocations are: *a word or phrase that is often used with another word or phrase, in a way that sounds correct to people who have spoken the language all their lives, but might not be expected from the meaning and in a way that is difficult to guess.*

The most common collocations are combinations of:

- Noun + noun
- adjective + noun
- preposition + noun (and article)
- verb + noun (and article)
- verb + preposition
- verb + adverb
- pronoun + adjective
- (pro)noun + preposition
- adverb + preposition
- (noun + adverb combinations are less common)

### ACTIVITY 1

WE have looked at collocations in Newscast 2.

Review the Collocations in the table below has collocation from Newscast 1

how often	thanks to	every instance	record data	bring to	somebody like
Aside from	great way	reminder that	right now	big issue	get involved

### ACTIVITY 2

Put the following collocations from Newscast 1 in the categories below according to their form: Some categories will remain empty. Two examples are done for you.

adjective + noun	verb + noun	verb + preposition	preposition + noun	pronoun + adjective	(pro)noun + preposition	noun + adverb	verb + adverb	Adverb + preposition
	record data			how often				

(See answer key)

### ACTIVITY 3

Listen to Newscast 1 again to be sure that you understand the collocations you have reviewed above.

# TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
<b>Introduction</b>	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of January 25th.	0:00
<b>Newscast 1</b>  <b><i>Calgary Grade 3 class catches 460 distracted drivers in the act</i></b>	<p>How often do students in a typical Grade 3 class witness distracted driving in a month? The answer is 460. We know thanks to eight-year-old TJ Lorensen, who enlisted his classmates at his school to keep an eye out for every instance of distracted driving they see in their day-to-day lives, record the data, and bring it to school.</p> <p>The project caught the attention of police – in a good way. Constable Steve Ross with Calgary's Police Service said, "It's really awesome when somebody like TJ gets involved in educating kids on safety, and distracted driving is a pretty big issue right now in the city."</p> <p>Aside from data gathering, Ross sees another advantage to TJ's class project. Not surprisingly, many of the distracted drivers students catch are their own parents. Ross said, "I think it is a great way for kids to help educate their parents. When you hear something through a child, it's a reminder that there is a reason for the rules."</p>	0:10
<b>Newscast 2</b>  <b><i>Alberta's EI numbers continue to climb</i></b>	<p>Statistics Canada says more than 61,000 people were on employment insurance in November – an increase of 2.7 per cent over the previous month. It's more than double the number of people in the province collecting EI compared to November 2014.</p> <p>Statistic Canada also broke down the increases in Alberta per sector. The report stated, "On a year-over-year basis, the number of beneficiaries whose last job was in natural or applied science almost tripled. Increases of similar magnitude were also recorded for those whose last job was in processing, manufacturing and utilities.</p>	1:22

<p><b>Newscast 3</b></p> <p><b>NASA shows off its 1st zinnia to bloom on the space station</b></p>	<p>Zinnias have bloomed on the International Space Station, the first fully grown by NASA in space. On the space station, scientists have been studying how plants react to being grown off Earth to prepare astronauts for a future trip to Mars.</p> <p>Previously, the plants never made it to maturity, so astronauts were excited when two Zinnias bloomed on the weekend. U.S. astronaut Scott Kelly tweeted photos of his orange success, wowing millions of people on Earth with shots of a zero gravity salad-worthy zinnia from the space station's veggie lab.</p> <p>These are not the first plants NASA has grown on the space station, or even the first flowers to bloom in space – but they are NASA's first flower that has grown entirely, from seed to maturity, in space.</p>	<p>2:10</p>
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## ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1: CALGARY GRADE 3 CLASS CATCHES 460 DISTRACTED DRIVERS IN THE ACT

### LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Now listen to the newscast again, and fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

How often do students in a typical Grade 3 class witness distracted driving in a month? The answer is 460. We know thanks to eight-year-old TJ Lorenson, who enlisted his classmates at his school to keep an eye out for every instance of distracted driving they see in their day-to-day lives, record the data, and bring it to school.

The project caught the attention of police – in a good way. Constable Steve Ross with Calgary’s Police Service said, “It’s really awesome when somebody like TJ gets involved in educating kids on safety, and distracted driving is a pretty big issue right now in the city.”

Aside from data gathering, Ross sees another advantage to TJ’s class project. Not surprisingly, many of the distracted drivers students catch are their own parents. Ross said, “I think it is a great way for kids to help educate their parents. When you hear something through a child, it’s a reminder that there is a reason for the rules.”

### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Complete the sentences below with the following words from the Newscast:

issue	keep an eye out	aside from	awesome
data	instance	caught the attention of	distracted driving
advantage	thanks to	enlisted	day-to-day

1. Thanks to her quick thinking, many children were saved.
2. We were enlisted to volunteer at the seniors centre.
3. You have to keep an eye out for cars even at the cross walk.
4. Every instance was reported to the police.
5. His day-to-day routine was to leave work at 6:00 in the evening.
6. Her new suit caught the attention of all of her coworkers.
7. We really enjoyed the awesome concert we went to on the weekend.
8. Distracted driving instead of watching the road is dangerous.
9. The new park is a real advanatge. The family can now spend time together.
10. The government discussed the important issue for several hours.
11. They collected data from many people to help them make a decision.
12. Aside from the language, you must understand the culture of a new country.

## ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2: ALBERTA'S EI NUMBERS CONTINUE TO CLIMB

### LANGAUGE FOCUS

#### ACTIVITY 1

Responses may vary.

#### LISTENING ACTIVITIES 2 and 3

Listen to the second newscast. Verify if the collocations you inserted in the blanks above are correct.

Statistics Canada says more than 61,000 people were on employment insurance in November – an increase of 2.7 per cent over the previous month. It's more than double the number of people in the province collecting EI compared to November 2014.

Statistic Canada also broke down the increases in Alberta per sector. The report stated, "On a year-over-year basis, the number of beneficiaries whose last job was in natural or applied science almost tripled. Increases of similar magnitude were also recorded for those whose last job was in processing, manufacturing and utilities.

#### LISTENING ACTIVITY 4

Listen for the following numbers and put an arrow from the number to how the number is said in the newscast.

Number	→ How it is said in the newscast
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62,000	Sixty two hundred Sixty and two thousand Sixty two thousand
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## ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3: NASA SHOWS OFF ITS 1ST ZINNIA TO BLOOM ON THE SPACE STATION

### VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the pictures below and write the correct number under the picture

1. Astronauts

2. Space Station

3. NASA



### LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to Newscast 3 again. Take notes so that you can summarize what you've heard.

Use the table below to assist you.

Suggest Responses:

What is said about:	
Zinnias	Bloomed in space
Scientists	have been studying how plants react to being grown off Earth
The Plants	the plants never made it to maturity before
Scott Kelly	tweeted photos of his flower, wowing millions of people on Earth
First Flower	that has grown entirely, from seed to maturity, in space.

### LANGUAGE FOCUS: INTRODUCTION TO COLLOCATIONS

#### ACTIVITY 2

Put the following collocations from Newscast 1 in the categories below according to their form: Some categories will remain empty.

adjective + noun	verb + noun	verb + preposition	preposition + noun	pronoun + adjective	(pro)noun + preposition	noun + adverb	verb + adverb	Adverb + preposition
every instance	record data	bring to		how often	thanks to		gets involved	right now
big issue					somebody like			aside from
great way					reminder that			



If you have any questions or comments regarding this lesson plan, please email [info@communication4integration.ca](mailto:info@communication4integration.ca).